

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06592 310243Z

11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-14 SAM-01

DRC-01 /176 W

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R 302145Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7942

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6592

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS AR CU

SUBJ: GOA VIEWS ON CUBA POLICY

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT GOA EXPECTS SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED IN OAS. ARGENTINA WILL, OF COURSE, VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS, BUT DOES NOT WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF OTHER LA STATES ON ISSUE. HE URGED US ABSTENTION IN ORDER TO AVOID DAMAGING CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT EMBASSY SOCIAL FUNCTION ON AUG 28 MINISTER FRANCISCO PULIT, CHIEF OF DIVISION LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS ENGAGED EMB OFF IN DISCUSSION OF CUBA ISSUE. PULIT WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. IF QUESTION OF SANCTION WERE PUT TO A VOTE GOA BELIEVES US WOULD BE ON LOSING SIDE. IT MIGHT MUSTER A MAXIMUM OF 8 VOTES.

B. IN ANY EVENT, THE LA'S, ARGENTINA INCLUDED, NOW BELIEVE THAT US IS READY TO CHANGE POLICY AND IS SEARCHING FOR PROPER FORMULA.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06592 310243Z

C. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, PULIT FELT THAT BEST FORMULA WOULD BE FOR US TO ABSTAIN ON A VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS (WHETHER FACIO PLAN OR SOME OTHER ONE), THUS ALLOWING ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED IN WAY THAT US RESERVATIONS RE CASTRO REGIME PRESERVED WITHOUT FIGHT THAT WOULD CAUSE BITTERNESS AND "WOUND" OVERALL US DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN L.A.

D. SO AS NOT TO GET TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT ON ISSUE, GOA HAD MADE DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CURRENT DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERINGS (FACIO ET AL).

3. PULIT ALSO REPEATEDLY MADE POINT THAT LA STATES WHICH VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS WERE NOT APPROVING OF CASTRO OR HIS GOVT. EVEN GOA, WHOSE DIPLOMACY HAD DONE MUCH TO SHAPE ISSUE, WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CUBA AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS MAKING MANY LESS SO. HOWEVER THIS MIGHT BE, LA POLITICAL REALITIES DICTATE THAT CUBA SANCTION BE LIFTED NOW. AS FOR THE MFM IN MARCH 1975, PULIT SAID "HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE LIFTED THE SACTIONS AND WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO SIT BACK AND SEE HOW THE CUBANS ACT."

4. COMMENT: PROFESSIONAL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SUCH AS PULIT ARE NEITHER INDISCREET NOR ADVENTURESOME. HIS REMARKS CAN THUS BE CONSIDERED A GOOD GAUGE OF GOA PLICY TOWARD CUBA QUESTION.
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